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COUNTRY Iraq

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Armenians

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Labor Conditions

- 25X1A2g
1. Kirkuk is expecting another labor strike. The last wage increases granted to workers have been absorbed by increased prices for housing and food. (See [REDACTED], distributed on 9 May, which stated that, in Kirkuk, the general run of labor seemed fairly well satisfied, although a dissident element was fomenting trouble.)
  2. The Iraqi Petroleum Company has already drawn up a new schedule of wages, but is said to be withholding the announcement until a strike declaration, as the Company is doubtful whether increased wages at this time would prevent a strike, and in the belief that, in the end, it will be forced to grant an increase in wages over that which is now on its schedule.
  3. Although several persons with good connections in the IPC aver that the strike movement is communist-fostered, source states that there is no evidence in Kirkuk, to date, of Russian agents, paid and directed by Moscow.
  4. The moving force behind the drivers and mechanics union in Basra appears to be Kadhin Sadu'n (not a member of the famous Sadu'n family), the government labor superintendent. To date, the movement is nothing more than a racket, according to source.

Emigration of Armenians

5. Eighty-two percent of the Armenians in Kirkuk, and 75% of those in Basra, are reported to have signed up for emigration to Soviet Armenia. The date when most of these people will be able to leave Iraq varies, but none, apparently, expect to go within two years. Those to be granted priority are reported to be trained machinists, mechanics, and other technicians who have shown an active interest in furthering Russian influence in Iraq.

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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